

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW RABBIT FROM SOUTHERN TEXAS.*

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The cottontail of the tropical region of extreme southern Texas differs from the races inhabiting the neighboring portions of the lower austral life zone, and is equally distinct from the Mexican rabbits thus far known. It may therefore be described as:

***Lepus simplicianus* sp. nov.**

Type.—From Brownsville, Texas, No. $\frac{21805}{306505}$ United States National Museum, ♀ ad. Collected October 19, 1891 by F. B. Armstrong.

Characters.—In size and general appearance not unlike *Lepus chapmani* from Corpus Christi, Texas, but fur everywhere much shorter; color essentially similar, but grizzle of head and anterior portion of body much less coarse, owing to the reduced length of the pale ring on each hair.

Color.—Back a fine grizzle of black and cream-buff, the latter slightly in excess. The elements of the color are almost exactly as in *Lepus chapmani* except that the cream-buff is slightly more yellow, but the grizzle is less coarse owing to the fact that both pale rings and dark tips average about 1 mm. shorter. It is partly due to the different quality

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of the fur, the result of the finer, shorter hair of the Brownsville animal. Sides and rump somewhat paler than back, but without forming any distinct contrast. Head and ears colored as in *L. chapmani*, but here again the much shorter hairs and narrower color bands produce a very different general effect, a uniform, clear, yellowish gray that can scarcely be called a grizzle, and which lacks the clouding on forehead and cheeks due to the long black hair tips. Ears much more scantily haired than in the allied races, the hairs forming the inconspicuous fringe along anterior border only 4-5 mm. in length. Nape patch rufous, a shade lighter than in *L. chapmani*. Feet, tail and underparts essentially as in *L. chapmani*, except that the rufous tints are more dull and the shorter hair of the belly allows the plumbeous bases to appear more noticeably at surface. The plumbeous, however, is of less extent than in *chapmani*.

Skull and teeth.—The skull and teeth do not differ from those of *Lepus chapmani*.

Measurements.—External measurements of type*: total length, 420; tail vertebræ, 68; hind foot, 91; ear, 90. Measurements of an adult male from the type locality*: total length, 416; tail vertebræ, 60; hind foot, 87; ear, 76.

Specimens examined.—Two skins and four skulls, all from the neighborhood of Brownsville.

Remarks.—While this rabbit is readily distinguishable from its nearest geographical ally, *Lepus chapmani*, its characters are in the quality of the fur and the arrangement of the colors on the individual hairs. The actual tints are almost exactly the same in the two animals, yet the Brownsville rabbit is an unusually well defined form.

*From fresh specimens by collector.